

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 1-13 stand in the present application, claims 1 and 13 having been amended. Reconsideration and favorable action is respectfully requested in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

In the final Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 1-4 and 13 under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Avaro et al. and rejected claims 5-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Avaro in view of Kumar. In view of the above-described claim amendments, the Examiner's §§ 102 and 103 rejections of the claims are believed to have been overcome.

At page 2 of the final Office Action, the Examiner stated that:

In response to applicant's argument that the references fail to show certain features of applicant's invention, it is noted that the features upon which applicant relies (i.e., modular "sessions, descriptions and two-way conferencing to exchange information) are not recited in the rejected claim(s).

In order to correct the deficiency pointed out by the Examiner and to more clearly patentably define over the cited references, Applicants have amended independent claims 1 and 13 as noted above.

More particularly, the amendments point out the fact that Applicants' invention is a three-stage process: (i) the base module is sent; (ii) the user requests one or more media modules (containing the stream address) and they are sent to him; (iii) the user accesses the media stream. The cited Avaro reference simply does not teach or suggest this.

As the examiner points out, Avaro does teach that "before the AV objects are transmitted the encoder and decoder exchange configuration information." It is clear that Avaro's objects (see his Figure 5, for example) are the actual pictures. His information exchange might be equated with Applicants' announcement: his objects may be equated with Applicants' delivery of the media stream. However, while Avaro teaches an announcement, he does not disclose the use of a distributed announcement. There is simply no disclosure of a first base module and plural media modules with stream addresses anywhere in Avaro. Specifically, in Avaro there is no disclosure of the claimed links, so that the user receiving the base module can be sent, upon request, one or more media modules, as required by the present claims.

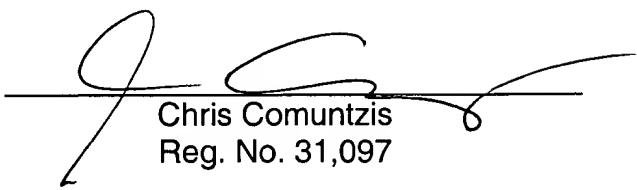
Thus, for the reasons given above, the above-described claim amendments are believed to patentably distinguish over the cited art. Moreover, it should be clear that the Examiner's reliance on Kumar for its relatively limited teachings does not solve the deficiencies noted above with respect to the Avaro reference. Accordingly, all of the claims are believed to patentably define over the cited references taken either singly or in combination.

Therefore, in view of the above amendments and remarks, it is respectfully requested that this application be reconsidered and that all of claims 1-13, standing in the application, be allowed and that the case be passed to issue. If there are any other issues remaining which the Examiner believes could be resolved through either a supplemental response or an Examiner's amendment, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the local telephone exchange indicated below.

BELL et al
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Respectfully submitted,

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